

Prior Art Citation

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Seo (6,934,235) and Nishio et al., both disclose an optical disk apparatus having the ability of discriminating the type of media, and setting the controls based on the type of medium.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Re claims 1-3

The prior art of record alone or in combination does not teach or suggest the operation condition setting system having the combination of elements with their recited functions, along with having the discrimination means, in the case where said second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive device is stored in said storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as one of said known kinds of recording media, and in the case where said second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive devices is not stored in said storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as said new kind of recording medium; and control means, in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as one

of said known kinds of recording media, setting the operating condition for said optical system using the second operating condition information, and in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as said new kind of recording medium, reading said first operating condition information suitable for the drive device from said specific read only area in the new kind of recording medium, and setting the operating condition for said optical system using the first operating condition information, as set forth in claims 1-3.

Re claim 4

The prior art of record alone or in combination does not teach or suggest the drive device having the combination of elements with their recited functions, along with having the discrimination means, in the case where said second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive device is stored in said storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as one of said known kinds of recording media, and in the case where said second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive devices is not stored in said storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as said new kind of recording medium; and control means, in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as one of said known kinds of recording media, setting the operating condition for said optical system using the second operating condition information, and in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as said new kind of recording medium, reading said first

operating condition information suitable for the drive device from said specific read only area in the new kind of recording medium, and setting the operating condition for said optical system using the first operating condition information, as claim 4.

Re claim 5

The prior art of record alone or in combination does not teach or suggest the operation condition setting method having the combination of steps with their recited process, along with in the case where second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive device is stored in storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as one of known kinds of recording media, and in the case where said second operating condition information suitable for one of said plural kinds of recording media loaded into the drive devices is not stored in said storage means, discriminating the loaded recording medium as one of said new kinds of recording media; and in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as one of said known kinds of recording media, setting the operating condition for said optical system using the second operating condition information, and in the case where the loaded recording medium is discriminated as one of said new kinds of recording media, reading said first operating condition information suitable for the drive device from said specific read only area in the new kind of recording medium, and setting the operating condition for said optical system using the first operating condition information, as set claim 5.

Re claim 6

The prior art of record alone or in combination does not teach or suggest the recording medium having the specific structure, along with having a specific read only area storing each piece of operating condition information which cannot be known by a known kind of drive device and which is suitable for making an optical system of the known kind of drive device access the recording medium, as set forth in claim 6.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MUHAMMAD N. EDUN whose telephone number is 571-272-7617. The examiner can normally be reached on FLEXITIME.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**/MUHAMMAD N EDUN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627**